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7 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
8 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
9

10 KIEREN KISHNANI, individually
11 and on behalf of all others similarly
12 situated,

13 Plaintiff,

14 vs.

15 BB OPCO, LLC d/b/a Brooks
16 Brothers, a Connecticut limited
17 liability company; and DOES 1
through 25, inclusive,

18 Defendants.
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Case No.

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
FOR:**

**1. VIOLATIONS OF THE
CALIFORNIA TRAP AND
TRACE LAW (CAL. PENAL
CODE § 638.51)**

JURISDICTION

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2 1. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to
3 the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2), because the total
4 matter in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000 and there are over 100 members of the
5 proposed class. Further, at least one member of the proposed class is a citizen of a
6 State within the United States and at least one defendant is the citizen or subject of
7 a foreign state.

8 2. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because, on
9 information and belief, Defendant has purposefully directed its activities to the
10 Central District of California by regularly engaging with individuals in California
11 through its website. Defendant's illegal conduct is directed at and harms California
12 residents, including Plaintiff, and if not for Defendant's contact with the forum,
13 Plaintiff would not have suffered harm.

14 3. Venue is proper in the Central District of California pursuant to 28
15 U.S.C. § 1391 because Defendant (1) is authorized to conduct business in this
16 District and has intentionally availed itself of the laws and markets within this
17 District; (2) does substantial business within this District; (3) is subject to personal
18 jurisdiction in this District because it has availed itself of the laws and markets within
19 this District; and the injury to Plaintiff occurred within this District.

PARTIES

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21 4. Plaintiff Kieren Kishnani ("Plaintiff") is a citizen of California residing
22 within the Central District of California.

23 5. Defendant BB OpCo, LLC dba Brooks Brothers ("Defendant" or
24 "Brooks Brothers") is Connecticut limited liability company that owns, operates,
25 and/or controls www.brooksbrothers.com, an online platform that sells clothing for
26 men, women, and children.

1 6. The above-named Defendant, along with its affiliates and agents, are
2 collectively referred to as “Defendants.” The true names and capacities of the
3 Defendants sued herein as DOE DEFENDANTS 1 through 25, inclusive, are
4 currently unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues such Defendants by fictitious
5 names. Each of the Defendants designated herein as a DOE is legally responsible for
6 the unlawful acts alleged herein. Plaintiff will seek leave of Court to amend the
7 Complaint to reflect the true names and capacities of the DOE Defendants when
8 such identities become known.

9 7. Plaintiff is informed and believes that at all relevant times, every
10 Defendant was acting as an agent and/or employee of each of the other Defendants
11 and was acting within the course and scope of said agency and/or employment with
12 the full knowledge and consent of each of the other Defendants, and that each of the
13 acts and/or omissions complained of herein was ratified by each of the other
14 Defendants.

15 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

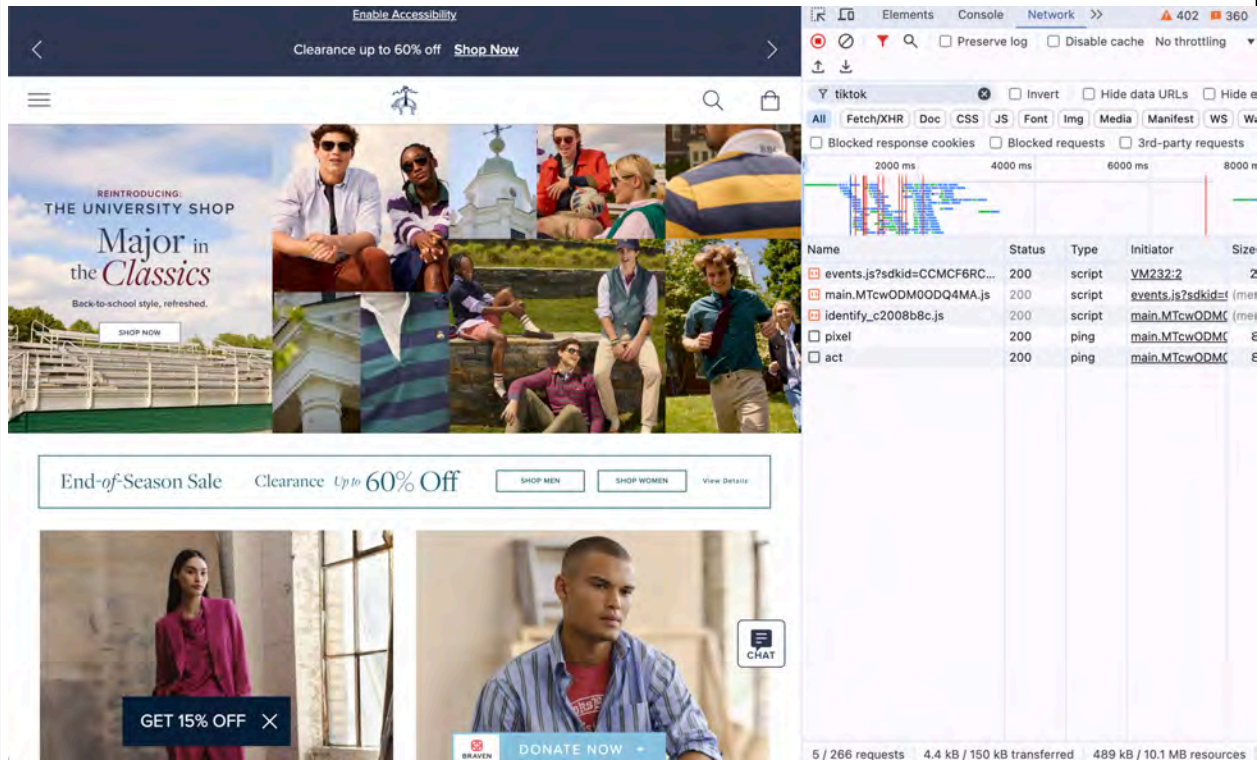
16 8. BB OpCo, LLC is the proprietor of www.brooksbrothers.com, an
17 online platform that sells clothing for men, women, and children.

18 9. Defendant has installed on its Website software created by TikTok in
19 order to identify website visitors (the “TikTok Software”). Plaintiff visited
20 Defendant’s website within the statute of limitations period.

21 10. The TikTok Software acts via a process known as “fingerprinting.” Put
22 simply, the TikTok Software collects as much data as it can about an otherwise
23 anonymous visitor to the Website and matches it with existing data TikTok has
24 acquired and accumulated about hundreds of millions of Americans.

25 11. The TikTok Software gathers device and browser information,
26 geographic information, referral tracking, and url tracking by running code or
27 “scripts” on the Website to send user details to TikTok.

12. The Brooks Brothers website instantly sends communications to TikTok when a user lands, and every time a user clicks on a page. In the examples below, the right side of the image shows the various TikTok scripts being run by Defendant, and the electronic impulses being sent to TikTok to add to their collection of user behavior.



13. California Penal Code § 638.50(c). California law defines a “trap and trace device” as “a device or process that captures the incoming electronic or other impulses that identify the originating number or other dialing, routing, addressing, or signaling information reasonably likely to identify the source of a wire or electronic communication, but not the contents of a communication.” California Penal Code § 638.50(c).

14. The TikTok Software is a process to identify the source of electronic communication by capturing incoming electronic impulses and identifying dialing, routing, addressing, and signaling information generated by users, who are never

1 informed that the website is collaborating with the Chinese government to obtain
2 their phone number and other identifying information.

3 15. The TikTok Software is “reasonably likely” to identify the source of
4 incoming electronic impulses. In fact, it is designed solely to meet this objective.

5 16. Defendant did not obtain Class Members’ express or implied consent
6 to be subjected to data sharing with TikTok for the purposes of fingerprinting and
7 de-anonymization.

8 17. CIPA imposes civil liability and statutory penalties for the installation
9 of trap and trace software without a court order. California Penal Code § 637.2; see
10 also, *Greenley v. Kochava*, 2023 WL 4833466, at *15-*16 (S.D. Cal. July 27, 2023).

11 18. Defendant did not obtain Class Members’ express or implied consent
12 to be subjected to data sharing with TikTok for the purposes of fingerprinting and
13 de-anonymization.

14 **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

15 19. Plaintiff brings this action individually and on behalf of all others
16 similarly situated (the “Class”) defined as follows:

17 **All persons within California who within the statute of**
18 **limitations period whose identifying information was sent to**
19 **TikTok.**

20 20. NUMEROSITY: Plaintiff does not know the number of Class Members
21 but believes the number to be in the thousands, if not more. The exact identities of
22 Class Members may be ascertained by the records maintained by Defendant.

23 21. COMMONALITY: Common questions of fact and law exist as to all
24 Class Members, and predominate over any questions affecting only individual
25 members of the Class. Such common legal and factual questions, which do not vary
26 between Class members, and which may be determined without reference to the
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individual circumstances of any Class Member, include but are not limited to the following:

- a. Whether Defendant installed the TikTok Software on the Website;
- b. Whether the TikTok Software is a trap and trace process as defined by law;
- c. Whether Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to statutory penalties;
- d. Whether Class Members are entitled to injunctive relief;
- e. Whether Class Members are entitled to disgorgement of data obtained unlawfully.
- f. Whether Class Members are entitled to injunctive relief.

22. TYPICALITY: As a person who visited Defendant's Website and whose electronic communication was recorded, intercepted and eavesdropped upon, Plaintiff is asserting claims that are typical of the Class.

23. ADEQUACY: Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of The Class. Plaintiff has retained attorneys experienced in the class action litigation. All individuals with interests that are actually or potentially adverse to or in conflict with the class or whose inclusion would otherwise be improper are excluded.

24. SUPERIORITY: A class action is superior to other available methods of adjudication because individual litigation of the claims of all Class Members is impracticable and inefficient. Even if every Class Member could afford individual litigation, the court system could not. It would be unduly burdensome to the courts in which individual litigation of numerous cases would proceed.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Violations of California Trap and Trace Law

Cal. Penal Code § 638.51

25. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations contained in every preceding paragraph as if fully set forth herein.

26. California Penal Code §638.51 (the “California Trap and Trace Law”) provides that “a person may not install or use...a trap and trace device without first obtaining a court order...” § 638.51(a).

27. A “trap and trace device” as “a device or process that captures the incoming electronic or other impulses that identify the originating number or other dialing, routing, addressing, or signaling information reasonably likely to identify the source of a wire or electronic communication, but not the contents of a communication.” California Penal Code § 638.50(c).

28. Defendant uses a trap and trace process on its Website by deploying the TikTok Software on its Website, because the software is designed to capture the phone number, email, routing, addressing and other signaling information of website visitors. As such, the TikTok Software is designed precisely to identify the source of the incoming electronic and wire communications to the Website. Defendant did not obtain consent from Plaintiff or any of the class members before using trap and trace technology to identify users of its Website, and has violated Section 638.51.

29. CIPA imposes civil liability and statutory penalties for violations of §638.51. California Penal Code § 637.2; see also, *Greenley v. Kochava*, 2023 WL 4833466, at *15-*16 (S.D. Cal. July 27, 2023).

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for the following relief against Defendant:

1. An order certifying the Class, naming Plaintiff as the representative of the Class and Plaintiff’s attorneys as Class counsel;

2. An order declaring Defendant's conduct violates CIPA;
3. An order of judgment in favor of Plaintiff and the Class against Defendant on the cause of action asserted herein;
4. An order enjoining Defendant's conduct as alleged herein and any other injunctive relief that the Court finds proper;
5. Statutory damages pursuant to CIPA;
6. Prejudgment interest;
7. Reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and
8. All other relief that would be just and proper as a matter of law or equity, as determined by the Court.

DATED: November 7, 2024

TAULER SMITH LLP

By: /s/ Robert Tauler
Robert Tauler, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff
Kieren Kishnani

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff Kieren Kishnani hereby demands a trial by jury.

DATED: November 7, 2024

TAULER SMITH LLP

By: /s/ Robert Tauler
Robert Tauler, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff
Kieren Kishnani